

Lewis and Clark Chapter Master Naturalist Program



March 24, 2015
6:00pm – 9:00pm
IDGF Regional Office

Officers:

Vacant – Chair

Carol Ebbs – Treasurer

Karen Loeffelman – Secretary

Chapter Meeting Minutes

6:00pm Lewiston Wildlife Habitat Area Tour

Before the Chapter meeting, Dwight Kilgore led us on a tour of the Lewiston Wildlife Habitat Area located behind the IDFG office. Dwight was a former Idaho Fish and Game agent and has been developing the Habitat Area since 1985. Local nurseries and groups donated the majority of plants, trees, and shrubs, and local groups (Lions Club and National Guard) contributed the gazebo structure and basalt rock formations. Vandalism is a huge problem in the Habitat Area and there was some discussion about how to combat the problem. There are ample volunteer opportunities in the Habitat Area and anyone that wants to pitch in can contact Dwight at 208-743-8893.



Attendees present: Jen Bruns (IDFG); Greg Hodapp (Hells Gate State Park); Carol Ebbs (Chapter Treasurer); Karen Loeffelman (Chapter Secretary); Rod and Alice Campbell; Emily Corsi; Sam and Debbie Duncan; Dave Eberle; Steve Ford; Heath Fuller; Barry Johnson; Robert Johnson; Lorna Inglet; Gary and Nora Peterson; Leslie Rios; Steve Ullrich; Billy Wilson.

7:15pm Chapter Business

Carol Ebbs gave a brief Treasurer summary and reported that 13 people paid their fees at the last meeting. She opened a bank account at Potlatch Credit Union over Wells Fargo Bank because PFCU1 doesn't charge a monthly fee to maintain the account. The Chapter does have to keep \$35 in the Chapter's savings account. With the number of current members, we may have to charge some additional dues to be able to use our monies for items such as speaker fees, refreshments (we might rotate to volunteer bringing snacks), and our curriculum copies and binders. Carol will wait to see how many other members join the Chapter before we decide if we need to charge more dues.

Jen presented a demo of our Master Naturalist Chapter website, www.idahomasternaturalist.org. Usernames and passwords have been passed out for those who have paid their fees. There was a problem with 2 members not receiving their login information and Jen will check with Sara Focht. Hopefully members that have paid tonight will receive their login information by the end of this week. Jen Bruns (IDFG), Karen Loeffelman (Chapter Secretary), Greg Hodapp, and Jeff Smith (Idaho State Parks) will have administrative permissions to add items to the main Chapter page and Calendar. Announcements and Training Sessions will be listed on the Lewiston Chapter page and the Calendar. Jen encouraged the members to make sure to log in their volunteer and education session times. Sara uses this data throughout the year for reporting purposes, so it's important to keep our hours current.

For volunteering, it is recommended members report volunteer time for one of the three supporting organizations: Idaho State Parks (Hells Gate), Idaho Fish and Game, and USDA Forest Service. After the 40 hours required for the program have been fulfilled, a member is free to volunteer for any other group, Audubon Society for example, and report their time on the Volunteer timesheet.

For the Education timesheet, members should report the first 40 hours as Core Training. After those 40 hours have been fulfilled, any additional training can be reported as Advance Training. Our meetings, officially starting with the March 11 meeting, can be reported on the member education timesheet.

There was a brief discussion on whether hunter education training could be counted for Master Naturalist volunteer time. It was decided since that training is already performed and counted for Idaho Fish and Game, it could not be counted for both. There were also discussions on what could be counted for Education training. If we attend educational opportunities outside of what is provided to the rest of the members, does that count? It was decided that if members informed Jen or Karen on these opportunities, they could be posted to the website for all members to take advantage of if they wish. [Send any opportunities you want to be announced to the group to [Jen Bruns](#) or [Karen Loeffelman](#)]

Curriculum binders for members have been ordered and will be distributed soon. The cost of printing these binders were covered by the fees we have paid as Chapter members. They will contain a number of Study Sessions on a variety of subjects. Readings associated with these sessions can be found online on our Chapter website under the Reading Resources Curriculum

Chapters link. Be sure to check the Volunteer Opportunities link often as well. Two upcoming opportunities are a tree planting opportunity (check with Jen for the correct dates) and volunteers needed to man the Take Me Fishing trailer at various locations in the area during Spring 2015.

Sign-up sheets were passed around for members to indicate if they would be attending the next three events listed in April (9th-Entomology and Meeting, 14th-Fish Talk, 19th-Fish Passage). Karen will notify the speakers of the number of people planning to attend these trainings so they can plan accordingly. If you were not at the meeting, you can [email Karen](#) to let her know if you plan on attending.

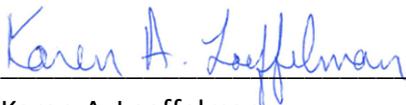
There was a bit of discussion on when our next meeting will occur and what topics should be included. It was mentioned we might consider letting individual members give short presentations on what they are passionate about learning, what knowledge they may possess to pass onto the group, or summaries from presentations they have attended. Members would like education to be seasonally appropriate and suggested a wildflower tour on Craig Mountain this spring or perhaps a mushroom session. Jen and Karen will work together to try and schedule our next meeting the third or fourth week of April. The length of the meetings was also brought up as a topic. Many of the members have to drive a distance to attend the meetings and it was discussed whether we should try and end the meetings by 8 pm and hold to the scheduled time for presenters.

We also discussed if there would be a cap on the number of members in the Chapter and how long membership would be open. Initially, it was thought we would limit the number to 30. As we are not at this level yet, we will continue to have open enrollment for new members. March 11, 2015 was the official start of our Chapter and each member that joins has one year from the date they enroll to complete their 40 hours of training and 40 hours of volunteering. Carol will keep track of the date members enroll in the Chapter. After the first year, members need to volunteer 8 hours a year to maintain their certification.

9:00pm Wrap-up

Our next event will occur April 9 at the IDFG office and will begin with an entomological presentation by Dr. Ed Bechinski. His presentation is scheduled from 1-3 pm and members that can attend will hold a Chapter meeting afterward. We are still looking for a volunteer to fill the Lead Naturalist position. This position will facilitate our meetings, work with Carol and Karen, and help to line up educational and volunteer opportunities.

Minutes submitted by:



Karen A. Loeffelman
Lewis and Clark Chapter Secretary
Idaho Master Naturalist Program
03-24-2015